

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9276

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIRNSA FT MEADE MD

JCS WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16345

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, TH

SUBJ: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER QUESTIONS NEED TO REVIEW THAI-
AMERICAN TREATIES

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN
ANDIREKSAN IS QUOTED IN THE AUGUST 1 ISSUE OF "THE NATION"
AS SAYING THERE IS NO MORE NEED TO REVIEW THAI-AMERICAN
TREATIES ON THE USE OF BASES IN THAILAND "BECAUSE THE
AMERICAN TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY MARCH NEXT YEAR
ANYWAY."

2. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S
STATEMENT RUNS COUNTER TO PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT'S
EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP TO
REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THAI-AMERICAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING
TO "THE NATION", PRAMAN MADE HIS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE
TO REPORTS THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY
HAD FAILED TO SUBMIT COPIES OF ITS AGREEMENTS WITH THE
UNITED STATES TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

3. PRAMAN IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT, "THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY DOES NOT HAVE ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THE
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UNITED STATES. IF WE HAD ANY WE WOULD HAVE SENT (THEM)

TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE. BESIDES, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS NO BUSINESS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ANY COUNTRY. THIS APPLIES TO THE SUPREME COMMAND. ANY AGREEMENT ON THIS BASIS WOULD BE ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS."

4. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE GENERAL LACK OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS ON OUR USE OF THE BASES HERE IS FRUSTRATING THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW SUCH AGREEMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, MOD IS PROBABLY RELUCTANT TO REVEAL THE PLETHORA OF MEMOS, LETTERS, AND "NODS OF THE HEAD" AT SUPREME COMMAND WHICH OVER THE YEARS HAVE CONSTITUTED "AGREEMENTS" ON OUR MILITARY PRESENCE HERE.

WHITEHOUSE

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